

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121531

STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN FOOTWEAR EXPORT RESTRAINT PROGRAM

REF: SEOUL 3919

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STR PRESS RELEASE ISSUED JUNE 19
REGARDING RESTRAINT PROGRAM FOR KOREAN FOOTWEAR:

QUOTE-- THE PRESIDENT' S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM D. EBERLE,
TODAY WELCOMED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THAT IT HAS ADOPTED A
THREE- YEAR PROGRAM TO MODERATE THE GROWTH RATE OF
ITS EXPORTS OF CERTAIN RUBBER AND PLASTIC FOOTWEAR
TO THE UNITED STATES.

UNDER THE PROGRAM, KOREAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED

STATES OF FOOTWEAR WITH RUBBER SOLES AND FABRIC
UPPERS (TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES ITEM
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700.70) WILL BE LIMITED TO AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT IN 1973 (OVER 1972), 17 PERCENT IN 1974 AND 13 PERCENT IN 1975. THIS FORMULA IS BASED ON U. S. IMPORTS FROM KOREA OF THESE PRODUCTS, PRIMARILY SNEAKERS, WHICH GREW BY AN ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF 216 PERCENT OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS TO 19,183,000 PAIRS IN 1972.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ALSO WILL LIMIT EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF HIGH- TOP PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR WITH SOLES AND UPPERS OF RUBBER OR PLASTIC (TSUS 700.53) TO AN ANNUAL INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT IN 1973, 1974 AND 1975. THE UNITED STATES IMPORTED 6,511,000 PAIRS OF THESE FOOTWEAR FROM KOREA IN 1972.-- UNQUOTE.

2. ROKG ANNOUNCED ADOPTION OF " EXPORT PROGRAM" IN FORM OF TWO LETTERS FROM AMBASSADOR KIM TO STR, ONE UNCLASSIFIED, THE OTHER, CONFIDENTIAL. UNCLASSIFIED LETTER STATES THAT ROKG WILL TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE THAT KOREAN EXPORTS OF PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR AND SNEAKERS DO NOT EXCEED THE QUANTITY LIMITATION DESCRIBED IN PRESS RELEASE AND REFTEL. CONFIDENTIAL LETTER SPELS OUT PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM INCLUDING COMPILATION OF EXPORT STATISTICS, ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL FIRMS, AND ISSUANCE OF EXPORT VISAS. THERE IS PROVISION FOR GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE WITH OPERATION OF PROGRAM.

3. STR ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF BOTH LETTERS STATING THAT USG WELCOMES DEVELOPMENT. COPIES OF ALL LETTERS BEING POUCHED.

4. FYI-- COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE BUT IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO KOREANS THAT NO BOUNTIES OR GRANTS WILL BE FOUND TO EXIST.-- END FYI. ROGERS

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